

## #10 Waterleaf

The leaves at the base are a cluster positioned in a radial pattern called as rosette. They are near ground level. The older leaves will be mottled with white, as though they were white-washed. They are typically fuzzy to touch. It will have a terminal cluster of lavender blue flowers.



## # 11 Wild Blue Phlox

The flowers range in shades of lavender and blue. Each flower is tube shaped with 5 rounded petal-like lobes. They can have small notches. The leaves are opposite and simple. They appear like a long lance, similar to the leaves of Spring Beauty. This plant is known for it's overall fuzziness. It may also be called Wild Sweet William.



**DO NOT PICK FLOWERS  
OR HARVEST ROOTS.**

**4550 E 100 S  
LaGrange, IN 46761  
(260) 463-4022**

**Naturalist Leslie Arnold**  
larnold@lagrangecounty.org

**Self-Guided Trail will be  
marked through May 20,  
and will change as new  
flowers bloom.**

**Audio version of guided  
walk is available at  
lagrangecountyparks.org**



*Newcomb's Wildflower Guide,*  
Lawrence Newcomb, 1977

*Wildflowers and Ferns of Indiana  
Forests,* Michael A. Homoya, 2012

*Wild Food Plants of Indiana &  
Adjacent States,* Alan McPherson,  
1977

## LaGrange County Nature Preserve



## Self-Guided Wildflower Walk

Maple Wood  
Nature Center

### #1 Large-flowered Trillium

Trilliums are a distinct group of plants with 3 leaves in a single whorl and a single flower with 3 petals. The oval shaped petals overlap at their base. The petals may turn a pale pink as they age. The seeds are spread underground by ants. They will eat the fruit and discard the seed. Trilliums are in the Lily family and a tasty treat for deer.



### #2 Mayapple

Look for umbrella-like leaves on a thick stalk. Only the plants with a pair of leaves bear fruit. The daisy-like flower is hidden, suspended in the fork of the stalks. The flower typically blooms in May. The fruit that follows is egg like in appearance. It can be eaten only when fully ripe but does have the reputation of causing intestinal distress (and that's putting it mildly). The roots are poisonous!



### #3 Wild Geranium

This is an extremely common wildflower here and in Indiana. The leaves are palmate, meaning they look like the palm of a hand. Each leaf has 3-5 deep, toothed lobes. Most often there are 5 lobes. The flowers are a shade of pink or purple with 5 petals. This flower is also called Crane's Bill which refers to the shape of the fruit.

### #4 Rue Anemone

True Rue Anemone has leaves that grow in a whorl beneath the flower in 3 groups of 3. The flower will have 5-10 petal like sepals that are white or pink in color. False Rue Anemone only has 5 sepals. The word "anemone" means a plant in the Buttercup family with lobed leaves and flowers that do not have petals but showy sepals instead.



### #5 Common Blue Violet

This is the most common color of violet in Indiana, thriving in a variety of habitats. The leaves are heart shaped and toothed. The flower has 5 blue petals. They can have a large portion of white as well. You may also see Yellow Violets in these woods.



### #6 Wild Ginger

This shade loving plant is typically found in colonies. It has velvety, heart-shaped leaves that are aromatic when crushed. The flowers are usually hidden, growing from the fork of two leaves. They are a purple-brown or burgundy color with 3 pointed lobes. The roots are a good substitute for Chinese ginger.

### #7 Spring Beauty

This is perhaps the most common spring wildflower in Indiana. It has very long, narrow, simple, opposite leaves. The flower has 5 petals and they are white or pale pink. They commonly have pink stripes. Their tubers, or corms, were prized by Native Americans as a tasty morsel when cooked that is similar to a potato.



### #8 Blue Cohosh

The small flowers are yellow-green or green-purple and often go unnoticed. The seeds appear as bright blue berries. It looks very similar in appearance to Meadow Rue.



### #9 Maidenhair Fern

While not a flower, this fern shares the same delicate, lovely qualities as many spring wildflowers. The stalk is a shiny black or brown color. The leaf blade is fan shaped with the leaflets all dripping off one side. It does not produce any flower. Please do not pick this plant! It needs a special habitat to survive.